

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT C-RCS**Code of Conduct for Athletes in Grades 7-12****Responsibilities and Ethics for the Athlete**

Becoming a member of a C-RCS athletic activity carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. As a member of an interscholastic team of the Cobleskill-Richmondville schools, you have inherited a tradition of respect for yourself, family, school, and community. By trying the best you can, and following all of the rules set up by your coaches and advisors, you can feel justifiably proud of yourself no matter what the win-loss record indicates. The Board of Education has approved an academic eligibility code for students in grades 7-12, and student behavior codes and student handbooks for students in grades 7-12. It is the responsibility of all athletes to honor those rules and expectations. Disciplinary action by the Building Principal shall prevail over all matters involving athletic participation.

Responsibilities to Yourself

The most important responsibility is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experience. Your studies, and participation in other extra curricular activities as well as in athletics, prepare you for life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Others

Younger students look up to you, and it is your responsibility to set a good example for them. They may seek your attention and guidance, so always take a few minutes to encourage them in whatever way possible

Responsibilities to Your School

Another responsibility you assume as an athlete is to your school. As such, you are subject to the rules, regulations and consequences of the Athletic Code of Conduct as well as the Student Code of Conduct. Cobleskill-Richmondville will maintain its position as an outstanding school only when you do your best in whatever activity you engage. By participating in athletics to the best of your ability, you contribute to the reputation of your school. Any behavior that may cast an adverse reflection on our program is prohibited.

Responsibilities for School Citizenship

The Code of Conduct for Athletes is a standard that the community, school, parents, and students have developed and which acknowledges to others that Cobleskill-Richmondville athletes are held to a high standard.

Homework, class participation, and conformance to school regulations are as important as personal conduct in both practice and interscholastic contests. Behavior that may be construed as unbecoming of a participant on our teams may cause him/her to be denied membership on a team. Behavior such as drinking, smoking, illegal use of drugs, insubordination, larceny, or any disobedience to the law or

school regulations could be just cause for the student to be denied the privilege of participating in interscholastic sports as a participant and/or spectator.

Responsibilities for Sportsmanship

Cobleskill-Richmondville athletes should exhibit the ideals of sportsmanship, ethics, conduct, and fair play. Athletes are to be respectful to visiting teams, officials, and all spectators, and thus establish a respectful relationship with one another. Respecting the integrity and judgment of the officials is critical to fostering sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of all team members to strive to develop leadership, initiative, and good judgment.

Athletes must have a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility. They must also recognize that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life and death for the player, coach, school, official, fan, or community. The purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players. In addition to following C-RCS rules, they must also comply with any rules/regulations of the institution they are visiting. As a Member of a team your appearance reflects on self, school, and community. Accordingly, coaches will work with you to establish an image that conveys the pride and tradition of our athletic program. Being a member of the team representing your school is a privilege. Athletes must be proud of the opportunity to play on a team and the school expects to be proud of their players. Students must attend all scheduled meetings unless excused by the coach/advisor.

Circumstantial Guidelines

Transferring/Quitting Team

An athlete who requests a transfer to another team may be permitted to join another team with the permission of the Athletic Director after consultation with the coaches involved. An athlete who quits a team will not be permitted to join another team during that same season. A season commences when the athlete attends his/her first practice session.

Attendance Requirement

A participant who is not in school for a full day is ineligible to participate in contests or practice, unless the student enters before 9:30am with a legal excuse or after 9:30am with a Doctor's note. Extenuating circumstances such as doctor appointments, college visitations, and inclement weather will be dealt with on an individual basis. Activities or competitions on the days following snow days or on Saturdays are not included in this restriction. The Building Principal has the responsibility for final decisions in cases of eligibility.

Student Eligibility

According to the New York State Commissioner's Regulations, "A pupil shall be eligible for inter-school competition in a sport during a semester, providing that he/she is a bona fide student, enrolled during the first 15 days of the semester, registered in the equivalent of five regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement and has been in regular attendance 80% of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness excepted." Detailed eligibility requirements are outlined in the section of this handbook entitled "Academic Eligibility - Extra-Curricular Activities."

CRCS Policy calls for a student to be taking 5 units of credit. Individual coaches/advisors may have their own additional regulations concerning daily attendance at practices and the minimum number of practices before being eligible for competition. Your coach/ advisor will inform you of these rules.

Discrimination and Harassment

Respect is the cornerstone of all our interactions and behaviors. We appreciate the dignity and worth of one another, and strive not to hurt another by our words, actions and our attitudes. The district is committed to safeguarding the right of all students within the school district to learn in an environment that is free from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Conduct is deemed to be sexual harassment when the student perceives such behavior as unwelcome, such as inappropriate touching, verbal comments, sexual name-calling, spreading sexual rumors, gestures, jokes or pictures.

Conduct is considered discrimination when such behavior is based on race, creed, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, family background, or physical or mental disability. These can take the form of name calling, physical, verbal or written threats, hate literature, or any other act intended to hurt, scare, or put down another based on who they are. These words and acts are unacceptable even when used as jokes.

Discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. Whether the act is deliberate, intentional or unintentional, discrimination and harassment are unacceptable in any school setting including the school bus and all school events. For further information refer to the section (Prohibitive Student Conduct) in the C-RCS District Code of Conduct.

Athletic Hazing

There is a prohibition against any form of "Athletic Hazing." Athletic Hazing is commonly defined according to recent research as, "Any activity expected of someone joining a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers, regardless of the person's willingness to participate." This does not include activities such as rookies carrying the balls, team parties with community games or going out with your teammates, unless an atmosphere of humiliation, degradation, abuse or danger arises. Any form of hazing is strictly prohibited.

Bullying

For the purposes of this policy and its implementation, "bullying" is defined as the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or that takes place off of school grounds but that is designed to or has the effect of interfering with one's ability to attend school and/or to be educated in a safe, non-hostile environment."

"Bullying may include, but not limited to actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, including ethnically-, racially-, or religion-based; and gender-or sexual orientation-based verbal put downs, extortion of money or possessions, and exclusion from peer groups within school. Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process and, therefore, is not acceptable behavior in this district, and is prohibited".

Any person who believes he or she has been the victim or subject of hazing or bullying related to athletics is required to report complaints as soon as possible of the said incident. It is an expectation that any individual witnessing hazing or bullying shall report this incident. Complaints should be filed with the Athletic Director, Principal and Title IX officer.

School Property

Students are responsible for all school-owned equipment issued to them. This equipment is to be used only for the purpose it is intended for in practices, contests, and at the direction of the coach/advisor. Students who carelessly or willfully damage or misuse equipment, facilities, or property of the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District or another school district are required to make restitution, the amount to be determined by the full cost of repair or replacement. School issued equipment/uniform must be turned in at the end of the season or the student will not receive any equipment/uniform for the following season(s). Seniors must turn in their equipment/uniform to meet graduation requirements. No athletic, or other awards, will be made to members who damage or misuse equipment, facilities, or property unless restitution has been made. In addition, a list of violators will be sent to the Middle School Principal (for students in grades 7 & 8), or the Assistant Principal/High School Principal (for students in grades 9 through 12) for disciplinary action.

Athletic Cuts (Removal)

An athlete who is “cut” from a team shall be allowed to compete on another team with the permission of the coach/advisor of the initial team and the advisor/coach of the second team for which the athlete is considering joining. Denial of such a request is subject to appeal to the Athletic Director and High School Principal.

Reporting Infractions

Infractions for any of the codes of conduct, regardless of where they may have occurred, may be reported by any person to the coach or advisor of the team, the Athletic Director, or School Principal. It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor and Athletic Director for investigation and enforcement of all rule violations.

Transportation To and From Activities

Parents/guardians may take their son(s)/daughter(s) home after away contests or scrimmages. The coach/advisor of that team will make available a permission form that needs to be signed by the parent. An athlete seeking permission to travel with anyone other than his/her parent/guardian prior to the day of the contest/scrimmage must have approval of the coach and Athletic Director/school administrator. The coach shall provide that form to the athlete.

Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties

Any athlete found to be guilty of hosting a party at which drugs, including alcohol, are provided or used will be treated as having violated the intent of the Athletic Code of Conduct. School officials will report all incidents of alcohol or other drug involvement to law enforcement officials.

Images and/or Written Information in the Public Domain

Any information that appears in public form such as the internet or printed materials (for example: MySpace.com, etc.) that brings embarrassment or unfavorable views to the student athlete, team, coaches, family, school or community is subject to review by the Principal and/or Athletic Director.

Academic Probation

A student must maintain a full schedule of five (5) classes and physical education in order to participate in any activity or sports program. A course schedule below five (5) classes/credits is considered part-time. Exceptions are at the discretion of the High School Principal.

A student who is failing two or more subjects at the five or ten-week marking period will be placed on *probation* for high school extracurricular intramural and interscholastic athletic activities.

Students on probationary status will have ten (10) school days (including emergency closings) to improve their academic standing. At the end of the ten-day period, an academic review of *all* subjects will be conducted. It is the probationary student's responsibility to obtain "The Probation Check-up Sheet" from the Guidance and Counseling Center and have the probation evaluation completed. The start of the ten-day (10) period will be determined by the principal. The sheet is available day 8 of the review period and due 3:00 p.m. of day 10 in the High School Office.

If a student athlete is failing three (3) or more subjects (based on final average) at the end of the school year, he/she may be ineligible to participate in the Fall Sports season. If the student athlete successfully completes summer course work they will become eligible to participate in the fall season. If the student failing three (3) or more subjects chooses not to participate in summer course work, he/she may practice but not participate in any contest until after the five (5) week interim period for the first quarter.

Probation

During the ten-day review period, probationary students will be allowed to practice but will not be allowed to perform in a game, or special event. For evaluation purposes, a grade of "Incomplete" is considered a failure. The ten-day waiting period may be waived by the High School Principal for extenuating circumstances, i.e., illness. At the end of the probationary period: (a) probationary students who are no longer failing two subjects will be eligible for full participation for athletics. (b) students still failing two subjects will be declared ineligible for extracurricular activities, intramural and interscholastic athletic activities.

Ineligibility

Ineligible students cannot practice, play or participate in any activities. If probationary students become ineligible, they will remain ineligible until the next five-week grading period. Students who are ineligible will not be granted reinstatement. Ineligibility will affect any activity in which the student can actively participate. Attending games, concerts, dances, plays etc., (spectator activities) are not included in the eligibility policy.

Middle School Academic Policy

Middle school student athletes failing one or more subjects will be placed on a ten (school) day probation. During said ten days a student athlete failing one subject is required to attend four Teacher Contact sessions*. If the student athlete is failing two subjects he/she will be required to attend a total of six sessions and if the student athlete is failing three or more subjects, he/she will be required to attend eight sessions. If the student athlete is still failing after the probation period or has not attended the required number of Teacher Contact sessions, he/she will sit out a contest for each subject failed or each session missed.

* Teacher Contact sessions are arranged by the student athlete and a teacher and can occur before and after school, during flex time, study hall or noon hour.

Violation of Athletic Code of Conduct and Outlined Guidelines

Violation of the above rules, regulations, and expectations will be determined by the coach/advisor of each team with the Athletic Director having final authority, unless appealed. Coaches/advisors are encouraged to discuss each incident with the Athletic Director prior to determining what action is taken by the coach/advisor.

Any athlete believed to be in violation of the rules shall have an opportunity to have a conference with the Principal, Athletic Director and parent/guardian. The coach of the team may be included in such meetings, at the discretion of the Director of Athletics. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified by the Athletic Director or Principal. Attendance or participation in such a meeting by the parent/guardian shall be voluntary. After such a conference, any team member found to have violated any of the rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

Penalties may range from a discussion between the coach/advisor and athlete to a permanent suspension for the rest of the season. The starting date for any disciplinary action shall be the date that determination has been made that a violation occurred.

Drugs, Alcohol, Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs

Smoking/Tobacco

A complete Board of Education policy regarding use of cigarettes and other tobacco products is available from the High School office. Possession or use of tobacco will not be permitted at any time during the season. This includes such items as chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, and snuff.

Drugs, Including Alcohol

Possession or use of illegal drugs, misuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs, including alcohol is not permitted at any time during the season.

Drinking

Drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages is prohibited at any time during the season. Wine consumed in traditional religious celebrations is not a violation of this code.

Course of Discipline for Violations of Drugs (Prescription and Non-Prescription) & Alcohol Policy**Initial Conference with Athletic Director and Principal**

A conference with the athlete, Athletic Director, and Building Principal shall be held to determine the penalty and to decide the fate of the athlete who has been found by the Athletic Director and Principal to have violated the Drug/Alcohol Policy. The Athletic Director shall invite the parent/guardian of the athlete, and if the Athletic Director believes it is appropriate, the athlete's coach, shall also attend this meeting. Parent/guardian attendance shall be voluntary. At that conference, the Principal and Athletic Director shall assess the need for an intervention program. If an intervention program is determined to be appropriate by the Principal and Athletic Director, any such proposal will be shared with the parent/guardian. Such programs could be one provided by the school staff or an out of school agency at the parents/guardian(s) expense. The conference shall determine the penalties and decision regarding the fate of the athlete during the period of the suspension. In addition to the District Drug/Alcohol Policy (see section on Due Process) an athlete found to have violated the Drug/Alcohol Policy shall be subject to the following:

First Violation of Drug/Alcohol Policy and Regulations

- The athlete shall lose eligibility to participate in a minimum of one-third of the team's contests that season. This includes post-season events such as sectionals, states, etc. The starting time for such disciplinary action shall be the date the Athletic Director/Principal concluded a violation occurred. In the event of injury or other circumstances, the disciplinary penalty shall be applied from the date the athlete would be capable to begin play.
- Any athlete wishing to remain on the team must practice with the team during the loss of eligibility to participate.
- The athlete must meet any intervention program determined to be appropriate by the Principal, Athletic Director and consenting parent/guardian.
- If the athlete is a team captain, the captain shall lose that privilege for the remainder of the season.
- Any student who has completed or is completing a disciplinary action as a result of a violation of any rules, may be denied an Athletic Letter and/or any other award(s).
- At the end of the season, any student who is completing a disciplinary action as a result of violation of any rules shall be sanctioned the remaining penalty (ies) in the next subsequent sport played during that school year. The Athletic Director shall determine the remaining contest(s) to be missed.
- Students in grades 7 and 8, except those who have qualified for inclusion on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team, shall enter grade 9 without prior disciplinary action/record carrying forward into the ninth grade. Students in grades 7 and 8 who are on a freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team shall carry forward into the ninth grade any disciplinary action/record recorded during the time on the freshman, junior varsity or varsity team(s).

Second Violation and/or Subsequent:

On the second and/or subsequent violation, an athlete violating the Drug/Alcohol Policy while in grades 7-12 shall be removed from any participation on an interscholastic team for a minimum period of one calendar year. This shall commence at the time the Principal and Athletic Director determine that a violation has occurred.

A conference including the Athletic Director, Principal, athlete, and parent/guardian shall be held in a manner and for the same purpose as stated in the section pertaining to first violations.

Due Process Procedures

Any student found to have violated this Athletic Code of Conduct shall have the right to appeal the decision of the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal. The process shall be:

- Within three (3) school days following a disciplinary action by a coach/advisor, an appeal must be made in writing to the Athletic Director which states the basis for that appeal. The decision of the Athletic Director shall be rendered to the student in writing with the reasons for denial stated should the appeal be denied. That decision to deny the appeal shall be made in writing within three (3) school days following receipt of the appeal.
- The student may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director with reasons for the appeal stated in writing within three (3) school days of that decision being rendered by requesting an appeal to the Principal.
- The Principal shall render his/her decision in writing to the student with reasons stated for denial of the appeal within three (3) days of receiving the appeal.
- Appeal of the Principal's decision must be made in writing with reasons stated to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) school days following the decision of the Principal.
- The Superintendent's decision shall state his/her reasons in writing within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the appeal request, should the decision of the Principal be upheld. The Board of Education shall have final decision in any appeal of the Superintendent's decision.
- Appeal of the Superintendent's decision must be made in writing within five (5) school days of his/her decision and must state the basis for the appeal. The Board of Education shall render its decision within ten (10) school days following receipt of the appeal request. The decision of the Board of Education shall be the final level of an appeal.

Cross-ref: 0100 – Equal Opportunity
 0110 – Sexual Harrassment
 0115.1 – Bullying
 0115.2 - Hazing
 5100 – Comprehensive Attendance Policy
 5200 – Extracurricular Activity Eligibility
 5300 – Code of Conduct
 9330 – Comprehensive Police Tobacco, Alchohol/Substance Abuse